



# National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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## Ag Digest

**Note to Survey Respondents:** Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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This publication may be found on the Internet at: [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone\\_Ag\\_Digest/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone_Ag_Digest/index.asp)

### MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 59 percent or 492.4 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2005-06 season, down 1 percent from last year's production. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 76.7 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$377.7 million, down 3 percent from the 2004-05 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 391 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$338.5 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 79 percent or 102 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$39.2 million for the 2005-06 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 65 of the 76 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 338 million pounds that were valued at \$266 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.8 million square feet and the total fillings were 54.0 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 843 million pounds, down 1 percent from both the 2004-05 season and the 2003-04 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 59 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$881 million, down 3 percent from the 2004-05 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 117 million pounds, up 17 percent from last season and 21

percent above the 2003-04 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 14 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2005-06 season is \$152 million, 18 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2005-06 is \$41 million, down 13 percent from the 2004-05 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 7.76 million pounds for the 2005-06 season, down 10 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$3.01, is down 8 cents from 2004-05. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.56 million pounds, is down 11 percent from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.19 million pounds, down 10 percent from last season.

Growers sold 32.5 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2005-06 growing season, down 7 percent from the 2004-05 season. Out of the 32.5 million pounds, 8.76 million pounds, or 27 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 6.08 million pounds, or 17 percent sold as certified organic during the 2004-05 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 80 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2005-06 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 33, down 2 from the previous season. These growers represent 11 percent of the 305 total mushroom producers.

### PENNSYLVANIA & US: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2006

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers
	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	
	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	Number
<b>2003-04</b>										
Pennsylvania	363,305	0.903	328,064	101,322	0.506	51,269	464,627	0.816	379,333	76
United States	703,496	1.140	805,200	137,666	0.532	73,205	841,162	1.040	878,405	125
<b>2004-05</b>										
Pennsylvania	385,473	0.893	344,227	109,959	0.428	47,062	495,432	0.790	391,289	76
United States	696,319	1.140	796,493	141,764	0.463	65,699	838,083	1.030	862,192	118
<b>2005-06</b>										
Pennsylvania	390,887	0.866	338,508	101,539	0.386	39,194	492,426	0.767	377,702	76
United States	700,754	1.120	785,411	129,093	0.428	55,298	829,847	1.010	840,709	119

# PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2006

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2005	Jul 2006	Aug 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Aug 2005	Jul 2006	Aug 2006 <sup>1</sup>
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn .....	Bu.	2.43	2.59	2.50	1.95	2.14	2.03
Wheat, Winter <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	3.16	3.82	3.81
Oats .....	Bu.	1.55	2.00	1.88	1.49	1.78	1.70
Barley <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	2.50	2.70	2.69
Soybeans <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	6.15	5.61	5.24
Hay, Dry All .....	Ton	130.00	142.00	138.00	99.70	107.00	106.00
Dry Alfalfa .....	Ton	146.00	162.00	154.00	108.00	113.00	110.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	115.00	127.00	125.00	77.00	89.30	91.50
Cows, Slaughter.....	Cwt.	50.90	47.90	46.20	51.40	46.60	46.90
Steers & Heifers .....	Cwt.	78.30	82.00	81.90	87.70	90.40	91.80
Calves .....	Cwt.	130.00	139.00	140.00	133.00	136.00	134.00
Barrows & Gilts .....	Cwt.	48.20	47.00	47.00	51.60	51.10	52.50
Sows .....	Cwt.	36.10	30.00	31.00	38.60	32.00	33.60
Sheep .....	Cwt.	50.50	36.30	-	43.00	27.40	-
Lambs .....	Cwt.	109.00	97.80	-	109.00	93.10	-
Eggs <sup>3</sup> .....	Doz.	.260	.230	.350	.266	.248	.388
Milk, Fluid Grade .....	Cwt.	16.60	13.50	-	14.80	11.80	11.90
Manufactured Grade ....	Cwt.	13.40	10.40	-	13.80	10.80	11.00
All.....	Cwt.	16.60	13.50	13.40	14.80	11.80	11.90
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup> .....	Head	-	1,700.00	-	-	1,680.00	-

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. <sup>3</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>4</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.).

## AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 120 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from July. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (4.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, broilers, tomatoes, and eggs. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, sorghum grain, and potatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, calves, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, broilers, and canteloupe.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 4 points (3.4 percent) from August 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 124, increased 6 points (5.1 percent) from last month and increased 5 points (4.2 percent) from August 2005.

**Feed Grains & Hay:** The August index is 103, down 5.5 percent from last month but 3.0 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$2.03 per bushel, is down 11 cents from last month but 8 cents above August 2005. The all hay price, at \$106 per ton, is \$1.00 below July but up \$6.30 from last August.

**Fruits & Nuts:** The August index, at 165, is up 3.1 percent from July and 13 percent higher than a year ago. Price increases for oranges, apples, and lemons more than offset price decreases for grapes, strawberries, and grapefruit.

**Commercial Vegetables:** The August index, at 157, is up 29 percent from last month and 31 percent above August 2005. Price increases during August for lettuce, tomatoes, and broccoli more than offset price declines for onions and sweet corn.

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 31, 2006

**Apples in cold storage** reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 439,000 bushels on July 31, 2006, compared to 510,000 bushels on July 31, 2005. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 228,000; Golden Delicious 69,000, and Rome with 64,000.

**Total apple stocks** in Pennsylvania totaled 18,438,000 pounds on July 31, 2006, compared to 21,420,000 pounds on July 31, 2005. There were no pear stocks reported in cold storage on July 31, 2006.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, beef, eggs, cheese, and chickens.

Butter stocks were down 1 percent from last month, but up 30 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 4 percent from last month and up 5 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 1 percent from last month, but down 8 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 29 percent from last month and down 26 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2006 were down 2 percent from the previous month, but up 2 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from the previous month, but up 4 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 1 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from July 31, 2005.

**HIRED WORKERS DOWN 11 PERCENT,  
WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 1,202,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 11 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired irectly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 327,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.74 per hour during the July 2006 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.95 per hour, up 34 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.56 per hour compared with \$9.26 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.10 per hour, was up 32 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Appalachian II, Corn Belt II, Delta, and Appalachian I regions. In the Pacific and Corn Belt II regions, the higher wages were due to a significantly lower percentage of part time workers in the work force. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were due to a larger proportion of highly paid equine workers in the work force. In the Delta region, the higher wages were due to increased demand for highly skilled workers on aquaculture and dairy farms. The higher wages in the Appalachian I region were due to a greater percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force.

**FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE  
RATES, WEEK OF July 9-15, 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

Item	NE II <sup>2</sup>	U. S. <sup>3</sup>
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers .....	49	875
Expected to be Employed .....		
150 Days or More .....	30	630
149 Days or Less.....	19	245
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired .....	39.8	40.9
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers .....	9.90	9.74
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined .....	9.20	9.10
Field .....	9.26	8.95
Livestock .....	9.03	9.56

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. <sup>2</sup> NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. <sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

**PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JULY 2006**

Variety	July 31, 2005					July 31, 2006				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	<i>(1,000) Bushels</i>									
York .....	0	0	9	257	266	0	0	42	186	228
Stayman.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rome .....	0	0	14	75	89	0	9	26	29	64
Red Delicious.....	0	0	5	33	38	0	16	3	11	30
Golden Delicious...	0	9	7	20	36	0	40	7	22	69
Gala .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
McIntosh .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fuji.....	0	4	0	0	4	0	19	0	0	19
Other <sup>2</sup> .....	1	36	14	26	77	2	4	8	13	27
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>439</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

**APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, July 31, 2006**

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	July 31, 2005	June 30, 2006	July 31, 2006
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage.....	2,100,000	0	3,696,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	19,320,000	34,020,000	14,742,000
Total Apples .....	21,420,000	34,020,000	18,438,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts.....	0	0	0
Other Varieties .....	0	0	0
Total Pears.....	0	0	0
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage.....	14,912,000	30,281,000	5,943,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	433,693,000	602,065,000	280,499,000
Total Apples .....	448,605,000	632,346,000	286,442,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts.....	8,576,000	0	0
Other Varieties .....	601,000	14,615,000	1,807,000
Total Pears.....	9,177,000	14,615,000	1,807,000

## MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul2005	Jun 2006	Jul 2006	Jul 2005	Jun 2006	Jul 2006
Layers.....	Thous.	23,045	23,788	23,503	338,573	342,175	341,047
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,382	2,346	2,438	2,234	2,161	2,241
Eggs Produced.....	Million	549	558	573	7,563	7,393	7,643
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	4,227	4,741	3,736	34,897	37,700	33,224
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	14,384	14,090	14,600	808,382	787,791	800,132
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	24,533	25,764	25,575

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during July 2006 totaled 573 million eggs, up 4 percent from the 549 million eggs produced in July 2005. The total number of layers averaged 23.5 million during July, up 2 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,438 eggs during the month, an increase of 56 eggs from July 2005. Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2006 totaled 3.74 million, down 12 percent from the 4.23 million hatched the previous July. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.6 million during July 2006, up 2 percent from the 14.3 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.64 billion during July 2006, up 1 percent from last year's total during July. The total number of layers during July averaged 341 million, up 1 percent from the number of layers during the same month last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,241 eggs, up 7 eggs from the same month last year. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during July totaled 33.2 million, down 5 percent from July 2005. Broiler-type hatch totaled 800 million, down 1 percent from last year at this time. There were 25.6 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2006, up 4 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

### RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during July 2006 totaled 95.4 million pounds, up 6 percent from July 2005.

Beef production, at 83.2 million pounds live weight, was up slightly from July 2005. Total head slaughtered was 68,800, up slightly. Live weight averaged 1,211 pounds, up 3 pound from last year. Veal production was 5.9 million pounds live weight, up 22 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 13,600 head was up 18 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 11 pounds to 429 pounds. Pork production was 56.2 million pounds live weight, up 11 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 228,200, up 9 percent from July 2005. Average live weight increased 4 pound from last year to 246 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during July 2006 was 439,000 pounds live weight, up 3 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,500, up 7 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 97 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2006

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod.....	Million pounds	95.4	3,782.0
Cattle.....	1,000 Head	68.8	2,834.3
	1,000 pounds live	83,245	3,604,618
Calves .....	1,000 Head	13.6	57.9
	1,000 pounds live	5,856	19,663
Hogs.....	1,000 Head	228.2	7,884.8
	1,000 pounds live	56,228	2,090,113
Sheep & Lambs.....	1,000 Head	4.5	202.1
	1,000 pounds live	439	26,465

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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